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Flying the flag

A young storm player waves the Haliburton County Huskies flag prior to the game on Jan. 6 against the Lindsay Muskies. The Huskies won 4-1. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

Five generations of Coneybeare's Butcher Shop

by **BRITNEY PAGLIUCA**
Times Staff

Mckay Coneybeare, the son of Coneybeare's Butcher Shop owner Chris Coneybeare, loves it when customers ask him if their shop has opened recently. It means he gets to reply with a smile and a glowing: "No, we've actually been here since the 1940s."

The Coneybeares have been practicing the butcher trade, which has been passed down through the family for nearly a century, serving the community of Minden with pride, gratitude, and expertise.

The legacy of Coneybeare's Butcher Shop started with Harry Easton, Chris's great step-grandfather, who came to Haliburton from Sussex, England in 1924 at the age of 51. Easton married Amy Coneybeare, who had lost her husband, William Arthur Coneybeare, during the First World War.

see 'WE' on page 2

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‘We learn by doing’; keeping it local at Coneybeare’s

from page 1

Easton came from a family of butchers in England and had learned the trade during his youth. When he moved to Canada, he had plans to open his own shop and continue working as a butcher. According to *The Lindsay Daily Post*, in 1925, he fulfilled his plans and successfully opened a butcher shop in Haliburton.

Moving to Minden in 1931, Easton soon relocated the butcher shop to its current location on the main street in Minden.

Chris reminds us that their butcher shop operated much differently in the 1940s than it does today. “They used to pick up live cattle from the train station in Gelert,” he said, “and then walk them to the slaughterhouse just off of South Lake Road.”

Chris recalls that in the early 1950s, Easton’s Butcher Shop became The Red and White, a grocery store that sold produce, fresh meats, and other goods. “It changed around the same time that the Dollo brothers came to town, Peter and Joe,” Chris said. “They had set up a produce stand in conjunction with Easton’s Meat Market and went on to establish Dollo’s IGA, who would become our competitors.”

It was also during this time that the shop was taken over by Chris’ grandfather, William Arthur “Bill” Coneybeare, and Bill’s half-brother, Lance Easton. Though Lance eventually moved on to open Easton’s Red and White in Haliburton.

The Red and White operated until 1981 when Chris’ father, William Alan “Cub” Coneybeare, decided to close, and convert the space back into a butcher shop – Coneybeare’s Butcher Shop.

Chris says that his favourite memory from working at the shop in those days was calling up his grandfather to ask if he would come and wrap the meat for him. “This is when I’d get to hear all the stories about the history of the shop,” he said.

Chris received the family business eight years later in 1989, following a tradition of passing on the business that has been upheld since its inception – and is soon to continue.

Over the past year, Chris has partially retired, and now his kids, Mckay and Lily have taken over all shop operations at Coneybeare’s. They have been working at the shop from a young age, just like their father did before them, learning the trade from generations of family knowledge.

Coneybeare’s Butcher Shop remains in the family for five generations. Standing behind the same display counter as their great-grandfather and grandfather, Mckay and Lily continue the Coneybeare legacy. From left, Mckay, Chris, and Lily Coneybeare. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

Siblings Lily and Mckay both agreed that one of the best ways to learn from their dad, was to watch carefully and take their time with the cuts. “My dad always says that every time we cut a piece of meat, it should look like something you’d want to eat,” Mckay said. “We always use that as a rule of thumb.”

Lily said that she’s often asked if she went to school to be a butcher, but the kind of knowledge she and Mckay have acquired by learning from Chris extends beyond desks and textbooks.

“We learn by doing,” Mckay said, remembering the first time he ran the show on his own during a busy, long weekend. “It was something I never thought I could do until I did.”

Chris had always hoped that he would be able to pass on the business to his kids. “It’s an awesome feeling knowing that they want to keep the business within the family,” he said. “They’re doing such a good job and coming up with ideas that I would have never thought of myself.”

Though Chris did the same in his time, as well. Before he took over, the shop primarily supplied restaurants and filled freezer orders. He extended the shop to allow for a retail space and brought in a display counter so that customers were able to come in and place an order.

Chris says he can clearly remember the first day he made these additions. “I sat on a chair in the front room and waited to see if people would come,” he said. And they did.

With Mckay and Lily in the driver’s seat, the pair have made some changes of their own.

In March 2023, the shop saw extensive renovations that included new floors, a fresh coat of paint, and a new countertop, and Mckay has taken the lead on developing new product ideas like stuffed and marinated meats.

The pair have also been utilizing social media platforms, like Facebook and Instagram, to promote sales and new products. “When I started at the shop again after finishing school, one of the first things I did was set up an email and create a website,” Lily said. They have found that using online platforms has helped reach a larger audience and encourages people from outside of Minden to visit the shop.

Although there have been many changes over the years, one thing has remained constant: Coneybeare’s Butcher Shop is where many of us get our Thanksgiving turkeys or summertime steaks. And it’s still run by the same family of butchers who opened shop back in 1925.

“It’s not a story that you hear much of these days,” Lily said.

Mckay said that another thing that has remained constant is Coneybeare’s willingness to support community initiatives and charities. “We still choose to donate to causes that my dad did, and my grandfather before that,” he said, “like the Minden Food Bank, Rotary and Legion.”

The Coneybeares are not only proud of the business they have built and sustained but are also immensely grateful to the community that supports them.

When Chris was asked what it meant to him that the business has stayed in his family for all these years, it was hard for him to find the words. “It means the whole world to me,” he said.

Dorset Recreation Centre to welcome exciting addition

The Township of Algonquin Highlands and Haliburton County Public Library are thrilled to announce approval for the creation of a new library space within the Dorset Recreation Centre (DRC). The previous library in the DRC closed its doors to the public in 2019, making this new endeavor an exciting chapter in the facility’s history.

Responding to the needs of the community, the Haliburton County Public Library first proposed the re-establishment of a dedicated library space within the DRC in the fall of 2023. Following investigation and an onsite meeting between Algonquin Highlands staff and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), a prime location was identified on the lower level in the northwest corner. On December 14, Council unanimously supported the proposed new Library location. The newly designated library space will be an open and inviting area, spanning an impressive 683 sq. ft. with abundant natural light pouring in through four large windows. Directly across the hallway is a meeting room which the library will be able to use to host programs.

While the exact timeline for the library’s grand reopening hasn’t been confirmed, anticipation is building within the community. The library is eager to transform the space into a welcoming haven for readers and learners alike. Plans for furnishing the area are already in motion, promising a vibrant and dynamic environment for visitors.

In the meantime, residents of the Dorset area are encouraged to continue enjoying library services through the Dorset Depot Library Lockers located outside Robinson’s General Store.

The Township of Algonquin Highlands and the Haliburton County Public Library unite in their enthusiasm for this project and look forward to the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on the community.

Submittted

All holiday outfits were on point.

Deck the halls

Archie Stouffer Elementary School hosted their annual holiday concert on Dec. 20 in Minden. All the classes took part in the festive event.
/TIM YANO special to the *Times*

Kids of all ages took to the stage to belt out their holiday favourites during the show.

The young classes entertained the full house of parents, guardians, friends and families.

Songs, dances, and skits were practiced and performed for the final show.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT – ICE SAFETY

No Ice is Safe Ice
Should you venture out there are some suggested guidelines to follow for ice safety.
No ice is without some risk, it is important to measure ice thickness in several locations.
Local conditions such as currents and water depths can affect ice thickness.
Never Go onto Ice Alone

WASTE DISPOSAL

New Waste Disposal Site Hours are now in effect!
A reminder that new waste disposal site hours started January 1, 2024. Continue to use your current waste disposal card (blue in colour) until June 30. Your new waste disposal card will be mailed out with your final tax bill in June.

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipality Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

January 11- Regular Council Meeting
January 18- Special Meeting of Council
January 25- Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or a live-stream link available on the Township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

A conversation about aging

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's no secret that Haliburton County has an aging demographic.

With over 35 percent of the population falling within the 65 and up age range, the concerns around aging safely, sustainably, and comfortably are a hot topic for the county as a whole.

That's why the Rethink Policy Change Group paired up with the Haliburton Highlands Long Term Care Coalition to form what is now known as Aging Together as Community (ATAC); an organization dedicated to fueling the fires of these holistic conversations, and coming up with resolute shifts in standard mindsets and protocols.

Bonnie Roe, a spokesperson and organizer behind the ATAC group, has been working diligently on bringing these conversations forward. Her efforts over the past year - with everything from community events to question and answer periods - have brought the topic of aging to the forefront of people's minds, and she hopes that these initiatives will culminate into one major event: the Inspiring Creativity and Empowering Change Conference, slated for Jan. 27.

"We wanted to host an event that would bring people of all ages together," she said to the *Times*, "and that's always been our goal; to be an intergenerational event."

The full-day conference, hosted at the Pinestone Resort, will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and will include lunch and beverages throughout the day.

While the event itself will organically spark dialogue around aging in the community, Roe noted that the agenda also includes a full roster of talented keynote speakers, who will bring a variety of experience, knowledge, and insight surrounding the topic of aging.

"These speakers are the most renowned in their fields," said Roe. They include Hereditary Chief Randy Chipps, an Elder of the North West Coast and Coast Salish First Nations, from a long line of Hereditary Chiefs and Healers, Dr. Pat Armstrong of York University who specializes in long term care and women's health, Dr. John Lord, a published author and leader with Seniors for Social Action Ontario, Sue Lantz, a published author and managing director of Collaborative Aging, and Danielle Turpin, a PSW and president of the Homecare Workers Cooperative, and the executive director of the Cooperative Care Alliance. "It's going to be a really well-rounded day," said Roe.

The speakers will be broken into a series of keynote presentations and panels, with representation from local service providers as well, including the Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Roe noted that while the focus of this event is sustainable aging, it's not an event necessarily catered to those who fall exclusively within the senior bracket. All ages are welcome, and to round off the full-day of conversations and questions, ATAC has invited the local Rotaract and Interact clubs to discuss how they fit into the complexities of residing in a senior-centric community. The two organizations are designed for high school kids and those aged 20 and up to give back to the community, and get involved with local initiatives and fundraisers. By giving the youth-based organizations a seat at the table, ATAC hopes to blur the lines of aging demographics, and spark conversations between multi-generational initiatives and prerogatives.

"We are really seeing this conference as a catalyst for more movement," said Roe, noting that the final event of the day is an open space, where all speakers and attendees can sit down, and discuss potential solutions for comfortably aging in Haliburton County, as well as what they learned throughout the day. "We have had a lot of these discussions," said Roe, "so now it's really about where to go next."

The deadline for registration is Jan. 13, and can be done by visiting the Aging Together as Community event page on Facebook, or emailing agingtogetherhc@gmail.com.

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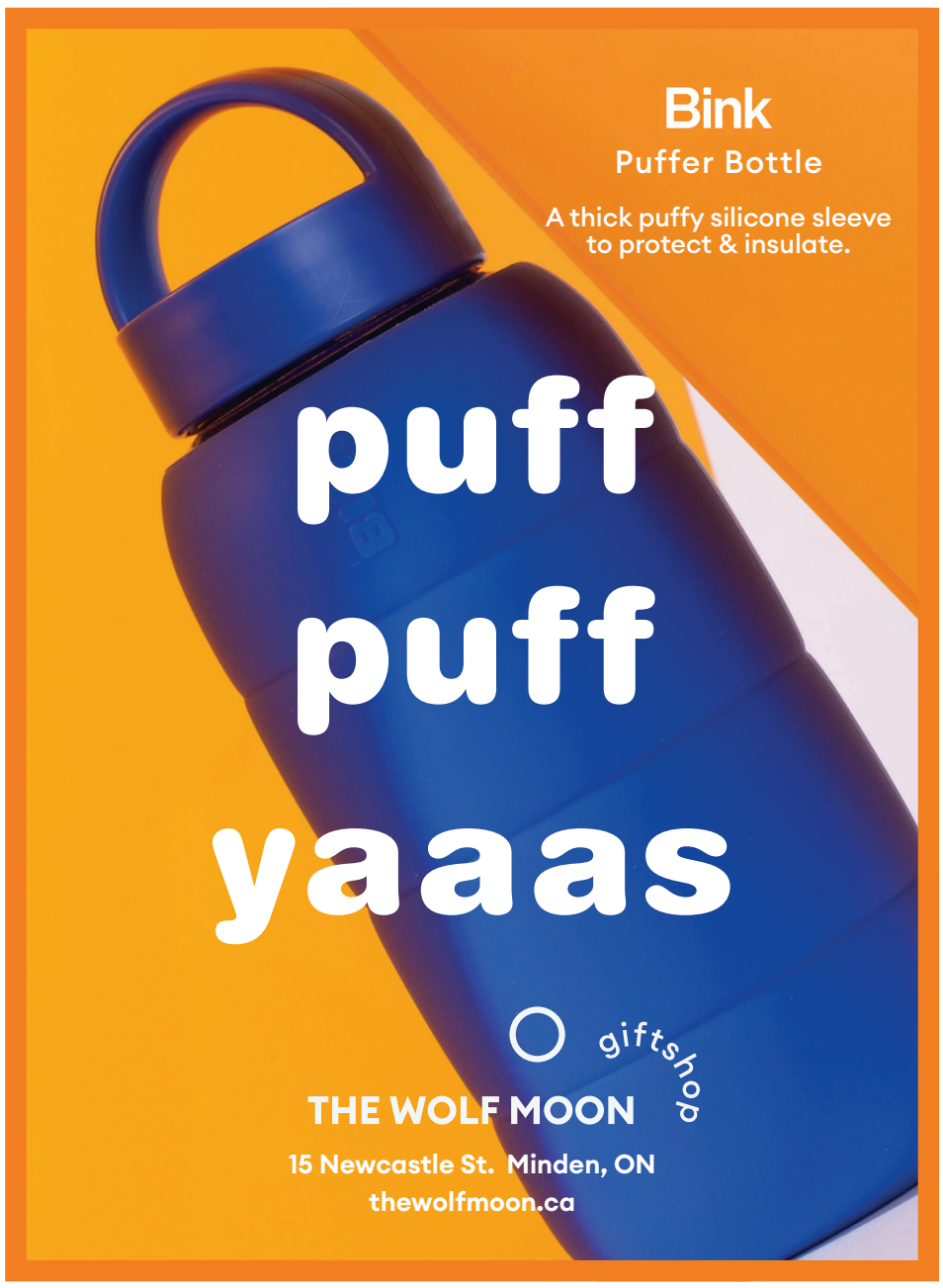

Ombudsman raps county's knuckles for closed meeting

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County council would have done better to have an open, public meeting about the Minden Hills emergency department closure rather than a closed session.

Paul Dube, Ontario's ombudsman, looked into the circumstances surrounding the April 2023 meeting of county council with Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) officials behind locked doors.

But Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, took exception with the ombudsman's December 2023 report into public complaints about council's closed meeting.

HHHS announced its decision in April 2023 to permanently close the Minden Hills emergency room as of June 2023.

"The announcement was met with surprise, fear, and resistance from community members," Dube wrote in his report into the complaint. "Many contacted their local councillors to complain about the decision and its imminent effect on the safety and well-being of residents."

County council met with Carolyn Plummer, then president and CEO at HHHS, and David O'Brien, the health service's board of directors' chairperson, to get more information and to attempt to reverse or delay the closure.

"We were told that an in-camera discussion was planned because the county hoped that the HHHS representatives would be more willing to have a full and frank discussion with council in closed session than in public," Dube wrote.

Council cited matters permissible under the Municipal Act's Sections 239 (2)(g) and 239 (2)(i) when it moved into closed session to discuss the emergency room closure. The exception council used has limited application because very few pieces of legislation contain exceptions that allow a municipality to hold closed meetings, the ombudsman wrote.

"Members of council and staff we spoke to could not explain why this exception had been cited," Dube wrote. "The clerk shared that the county may have assumed that legislation exists that permits the HHHS board to hold closed meetings, which also applied to council. However, the county could not cite the legislation that it believed permitted the closed meeting."

Section 239(2)(g) allows a municipality to discuss a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee, or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act in closed session.

Section 239(2)(i) contains the exception for information supplied in confidence to the municipality by a third party.

County council continued its closed session after the HHHS officials had left the meeting.

After returning to open session, council adjourned the meeting.

Dube determined that county council was not permitted to discuss the ER closure while in camera under the cited exceptions in the Municipal Act for matters under another Act or information supplied in confidence by a third party.

However, Dube determined that a portion of the discussion did fit within the exception for advice subject to solicitor-client privilege as county council discussed possible legal action against the health facility's closure.

"The fact that the closure was imminent added to council's desire to act quickly," he wrote. "However, the open meeting rules continue to apply, even in times of crisis.

"The open meeting requirements set out in s. 239 of the Municipal Act permit the public to observe the political process. I encourage the county to continue to strive to carry out their business in as transparent and open a manner as possible during all council meetings."

The ombudsman made four recommendations to Haliburton County as a result of his investigation.

Dube said all members of council should be vigilant in adhering to their individual and collective obligation to ensure that the county complies with its responsibilities under the Municipal Act, 2001.

He said that council should ensure that no subject is discussed in closed session unless it clearly comes within one of the statutory exceptions to the open meeting requirements. As a best practice, Dube wrote, when county council relies on the exception in section 239(2)(g) to close a meeting to the public, the resolution to move into closed session should include the relevant legislation and provision that permits the meeting to be closed.

Finally, Dube said that when relying on the section in section 239(2)(i) to discuss information supplied in confidence by a third party in a closed meeting, council should adopt the best practice of consulting the third party in advance to ensure that all elements of the exception are met.

Carter said during county council's regular public meeting Dec. 13 that he didn't want to criticize the ombudsman or his report. But he said it's important to note that it took "a team of lawyers from the ombudsman office more than four months of investigating to find that we technically didn't follow one of their rules when we had approximately two days in the midst of a crisis to put together the meeting."

He said county council had to quickly parse the Municipal Act to determine which parts of the closed meeting exemptions applied to the situation.

"There's an old joke," he said. "What's an auditor? It's somebody who comes onto the battlefield after the battle of finished and bayonets the wounded. I kind of feel that the ombudsman is doing that a little bit with us."

Carter said he isn't certain anybody else in the same circumstances would not have approached the situation as had Haliburton County's council.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, agreed. Given those circumstances, she said council did the best it could.

"And we'll move forward with it," Danielsen said.

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Transparency

WE'VE ALL seen them. Those word searches, plastered on the screens of social media, running rampant this time of year with promises that the first three words you spot will be the fortune for the year.

"Gratitude". "Love". "Money."

As I was mindlessly scrolling one day (a habit I do actually hope to throw out with the 2023 bath water), I came across one such puzzle. As my eyes began to focus on the jumble of promises, one word stood out above the rest: transparency.

I thought about this word. What it means. Where it came from. How it can be applied to my day to day.

Transparency was a Minden buzzword of 2023; mostly in light of the Emergency Room closure in June this past year. Suddenly, this word became all the rage. It went from being a term that hadn't graced the tongues of the average Joes and Janes, to a basic human right; something worth fighting for, worth exploring, worth demanding.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

When things happen behind closed doors, we feel left out. That's why we fight so hard to be let back in; to have a voice at the table, to not miss a single beat.

In reality, there are countless items we are left out of on a daily basis. Decisions happening at every political level, from municipal to federal and everything in between. During my brief stint working for our own local government, I can recall countless occasions where we closed those doors. Situations where we made decisions, and actively made the choice to not involve the public; even if the decisions directly impacted them in some capacity.

HHHS staying quiet and lacking transparency was one issue, but when county council made the choice to shutter its doors to converse about the closure in greater detail, that's a whole other thing.

Suddenly, the hill that so many of our local politicians waved flags on with re-opening the ER was eroded. The trust we put in our representatives to stand their ground had crumbled. That transparency that elected officials had been seeking from HHHS became moot, as the roles were reversed, and they chose to close their own doors, stooping to the same level as those they were trying to chastise.

And truthfully, I am sure they had their reasons. It was a time of floundering and flummoxing. No one really knew how to tread, and there was truly no path of least resistance. This goes for both county council, and HHHS. I recognize that hands were tied in the process, and am aware of the fact that the public really only recognizes and understands the tip of the iceberg.

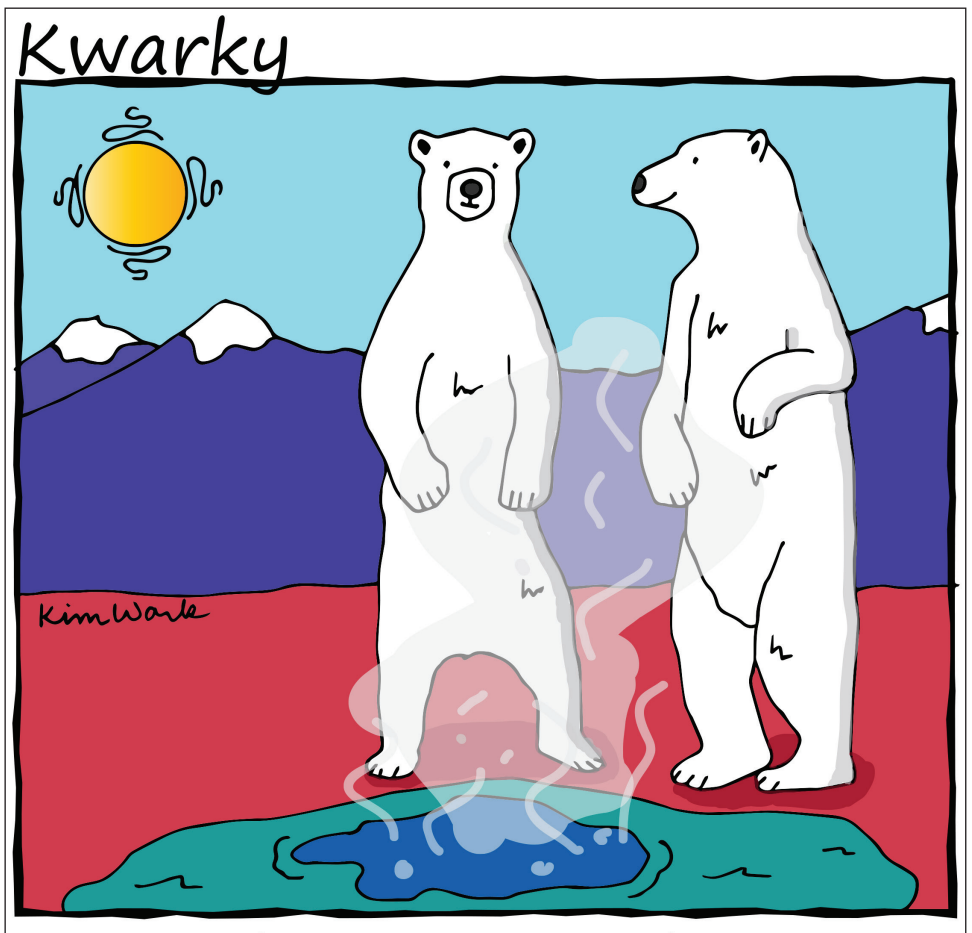
But it's what was floating under the iceberg that sank the world's largest ship.

Seeking that transparency is human nature. The desire to be given a space at the table is a part of our biology.

But I would encourage the fine folks of Minden to seek this transparency in more ways than one. Yes, the ER closure impacted us all, but in my time here, it was one of the first instances that I've seen the public get worked up about a decision being made behind closed doors. These decisions are made regularly, and impact everything from snow removal to staffing.

If you have a thought, if you want to know more, if you desire to have a seat at that table, then fight for it. Because transparency isn't just a buzzword, it's a right. Something worth fighting for, worth exploring, worth demanding.

And it shouldn't take a New Year's word search to spark that flame.



Polar Bear Hot Water Plunge

Masking the truth

THIS MORNING, as I caught a glimpse of myself in the bathroom mirror, it occurred to me that outdoor enthusiasts and the public in general, do not give the face mask the credit it deserves.

That is a shame.

You see, despite what our advertising and television shows portray, masks are no longer the sole domain of the criminal element, superheroes, and nefarious characters whose main purpose in life is to burgle low-priced hamburgers. No, masks are now quite commonly used by outdoor enthusiasts too.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Outdoorswomen and men will tell you they use masks to protect their faces from the cold, rain, sun, or wind. Hunters will also divulge that their camouflaged masks reduce the chances of them being detected by creatures such as deer, turkeys, and ducks. They are also great to have on, should your boss be driving by the boat launch after you called in sick.

All that is true, but masks have other lesser-known uses too.

For instance, when you are on the water fishing, a mask is worth its weight in gold when you are intentionally giving unsuspecting anglers directions to a bad fishing spot. Also, a well-made mask will hide a quivering lower lip, after the fish of a lifetime breaks you off right at the ice hole.

They can save you money too. During winter excursions, if you have a good absorbent mask, you never need to worry about having a supply of Kleenex on hand. Similarly, if you are downhill skiing through a forest – and not particularly good at it – a mask can help keep unwanted tree bark out of your teeth, which is one less dental procedure to pay for.

Anyone who has ever snowshoed also knows that masks can be a godsend, especially when you find yourself in the embarrassing position of snowshoeing down a trail where the snow is so packed down that people are walking on it in loafers.

And, like the six-shooters of the old west, masks are also the great equalizer – at least in terms of who is the most photogenic. I can't tell you how many times outdoor photographers have asked me to put my mask back on.

I guess what I am trying to convey is that masks can be very helpful in an outdoors environment and perhaps even save a life or two, most notably in a crowded ice hut, after someone has consumed cabbage rolls.

They can also aid in your ventriloquism efforts, which is a real boon when you are trying to convince your angling partner that the minnow he is about to hook on as bait would like to talk things over.

One of the most recent positive developments is that masks no longer have the bad rap they once did. Not that long ago, there was a time when you could not walk into a bank wearing one. Thankfully, Covid came along. I would still not recommend doing this, however, as it can make the tellers nervous, though this is now mostly because they know they are probably in for a long-winded hunting or fishing story.

The point is masks are now socially accepted everywhere – and, in fact, in some places, they are required. I am, of course, referring to a crowded ice hut after someone has consumed cabbage rolls.

InOtherWords

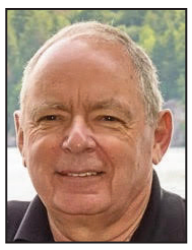
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Our roadside shame

The exceptionally late arrival of winter's snow has covered up Canada's dirty little secret: We are not holier than other countries when it comes to garbage. Especially the garbage we toss from our vehicles and onto our roadways.

Some years back the Newfoundland/Labrador government counted trash at select road sites and estimated there are 92 million pieces of litter on its roads and highways.

There does not appear to be any accurate or coherent studies for Canada-wide road litter, but you can bet the numbers run into the many millions. A 2020 national litter study in the U.S. found that country produces 24 billion pieces of roadside litter every year.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Lack of snow in November and December left roadsides and leafless forest edges exposed, revealing toss-out litter usually covered by snow. The number of bottles, cans, takeout coffee cups and other assorted litter spotted along popular highways such as 117, 118 and 35 was shocking.

Roadside litter is not just unsightly. It is dangerous.

Food scraps in litter attract animals onto roads. Cyclists often swerve into traffic lanes to avoid it.

Studies have found that roadside debris is responsible for thousands of traffic accidents every year.

And, it's bad for the environment. Cigarette butts, as small as they may be, are toxic and often end up contaminating streams, ponds and lakes.

These butts are made of cellulose acetate, a man-made plastic that contains hundreds of toxic chemicals, including arsenic. Butts now are considered the most abundant form of plastic waste in the world with an estimated 4.5 trillion butts polluting our environment.

There is no shortage of writing and talking about the problem, but it continues year after year. This coming spring, volunteer groups will be out picking up and bagging roadside trash, but as soon as they are done more bottles, cans and bags will be tossed from vehicle windows.

Trying to keep up with roadside trash costs us all money, despite the volunteer efforts. Various governments have litter cleanup programs that cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

Exact figures for Canada are hard to find but researchers in the U.S. estimate annual cost of cleaning up litter is $11 billion.

Policing littering is difficult, expensive and ineffective. The Ontario Provincial Police issue roughly 200 littering tickets a year and fines usually are not significant enough to deter others.

The greatest challenge related to roadside littering is how to stop it. It's a cultural problem in which people simply do not realize the damage that can be caused by tossing garbage out their vehicle window.

When someone tosses debris from a speeding vehicle it has no effect on their life. It is gone and no longer something they have to deal with. They figure it will be picked up by someone, likely a government worker or volunteer.

Some countries are seeing littering as a serious social problem that they are addressing through "trash doesn't touch the ground" programs. In Kigali, Rwanda, for instance, all able-bodied persons of working age spend three hours once a month tidying up the city.

Research has shown that well-placed and regularly-serviced waste bins are a major help in reducing littering. Also, the cleanliness or messiness of an area has a major effect on littering. A major 1990 psychological study found that littering more than doubles in areas already littered.

Professionals who study such matters say the key to reducing roadside litter is to create more campaigns to help people realize the damage it causes. They say more school programs are needed to teach children how littering is socially unacceptable and that anti-littering campaigns evoke community pride and create more responsible citizenship.

Some research shows that educational campaigns can reduce littering by 50 per cent.

Canadian attitudes about garbage in general go far beyond roadside litter. Each of us generates about 2.7 kilograms (six pounds) of garage each day, according to the Conference Board of Canada. That agency has said Canadians produce more garbage than any other country and ranks it 15th among 17 developed countries studied for environment efficiency.

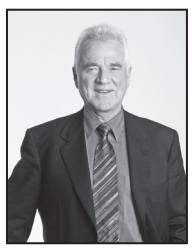
We need to start realizing that our planet earth is not a garbage can, despite the fact that our roadsides often look like one.

Are Canadian living standards deteriorating?

DECLINING LIFE expectancy for Canadians. Plunging math scores among Canada's high school students. Fewer doctors. And longer wait times for emergency care.

These were some of the headlines from the past week or so. They're warning signals – just a few in a long and growing list – about our country's declining living standards.

A Statistics Canada report that didn't receive much attention showed that life expectancy for Canadians has dropped for the third straight year. In countries with high living standards, life expectancy should be rising, not falling.



FRANK STRONACH
Principles

The second troubling headline related to the health and well-being of Canadians came from a report published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The report showed Canada was lagging behind a number of other OECD countries in various key health indicators. According to the report, Canada was one of the worst countries in the category of total number of physicians per resident and was at the very bottom when it came to receiving timely treatment in emergency care or access to a medical specialist.

But that's what happens when the economy no longer functions properly – there's less and less money for social programs like health, and fewer dollars to look after the most vulnerable and fragile in our society.

And while health is one of the most important indicators regarding a country's quality of life and overall living standards, so too is education.

An OECD report published last week revealed that the math scores of Canadian high school students continue to fall year after year. In fact, according to the report, they've been dropping for almost 20 years now.

That can't be good in an economy that is increasingly reliant on technology and science, two fields where math skills are critical.

The other worrisome headline from last week was related to a Statistics Canada report showing that Canada's economy is shrinking, household spending is flat, and exports are declining.

When added together, all of these troubling symptoms about the state of our healthcare, education system and economy begin to paint a picture of slow and steady decline.

It's what happens when we import more and export less, when we stop manufacturing products here in Canada, and when a growing percentage of the wealth we do create gets eaten up by our bureaucracy and interest payments on the national debt.

A country that no longer focuses on the creation of wealth will invariably see a decline in its living standards and the unraveling of its economic fabric.

So how do we go about restoring our living standards, which used to be among the highest in the world?

I believe the best way to do so is through the establishment of an Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities – a charter that would make our tax system simpler and fairer, boost the incomes of millions of Canadians through profit sharing, unshackle small business to create millions of new jobs, and put the brakes on out-of-control government spending while slashing red tape.

An economic charter would also improve the nutrition of Canadian children and give young Canadians the opportunity to learn technical trades and pursue good-paying careers.

Most of all, an economic charter of rights would help us restore the high living standards that made Canada one of the most desirable countries in the world.

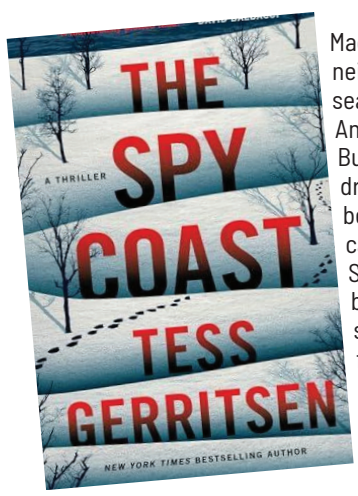
To learn more about the economic charter and how it could generate economic growth and prosperity, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

fstronachlpc@gmail.com

HCPL's Book of the Week



Maggie Bird is many things. A chicken farmer. A good neighbour. A seemingly average retiree living in the seaside town of Purity. She's also a darned good rifle shot. And she never talks about her past.

But when an unidentified body is left on Maggie's driveway, she knows it's a calling card from old times. It's been fifteen years since the failed mission that ended her career as a spy, and cost her far more than her job.

Step forward the "Martini Club" - Maggie's silver-haired book group (to anyone who asks), and a cohort of former spies behind closed doors. With the help of her old friends - and always one step ahead of the persistent local cop - Maggie might still be able to save the life she's built.

The Spy Coast by Tess Gerritsen is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Minden Memories

Overlooking the Gull River in the winter, towards what was once known as North Water Street, but is now referred to as Invergordon Avenue. The building on the left was the Eugene Hollefreund General Store, which was demolished by a controlled burn in 1978. /Photo submitted

letters to the editor

Farewell to Dave...

To the Editor,

For years, I called on Dave Allen at Canoe FM to organize advertising programs for "Buddy Holly Lives", "Endless Summer", "Elvis Is King", and other shows I presented at Pinestone Resort. Dave was a creative, reliable and welcome resource that I came to depend on. Over the years, we became friends. And I looked forward to our many "strategy meetings", and lunches at McKecks. I'm sure that, like myself, Dave's many clients will miss his bright, cheerful persona and tireless work ethic. Good luck with whatever your future plans are, Dave!

Merv Buchanan,
Calgary

Local hero recognized

To the Editor,

Last Tuesday Father Ron Meyers from the Catholic church Our Lady of Fatima was shopping in Minden when he lost his wallet. Most of us know what a nightmare it is in this situation to replace all of its contents. He reported it to the local police and was relieved on Wednesday when the bank called to report that his wallet was handed in to them with all of its contents. Our local barber, Cody Nasby had found it in the street and immediately took it to the bank to hand it in. It's very refreshing to see the kindness and honesty of local people. Hats off to Cody who is also a great barber.

Larry Murphy,
Minden

HSF 2024 Highlands Summer Festival

2024 Audition Invitation

The Highlands Summer Festival is holding auditions for the following 2024 productions:

- **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (a musical)**
- **The Miracle Worker**
- **The Birds & the Bees**

Saturday, January 27, from 10 a.m.
Sunday, January 28, from 12:30 p.m.

at **St. George's Anglican Church**
617 Mountain Street, Haliburton

Character descriptions and other important details, including how to register, can be found in the audition package, linked from the HSF home page at **www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca**

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Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings
9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Creative Collaborations
When: Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church. 617 Mountain Street
Share your skills. Learn new skills. Bring your own project or work on the featured project. Beginners Welcome. Contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for details.

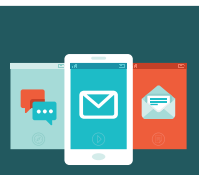
Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cribbage and Euchre
When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Please join us Tuesdays for cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. With funding from the Government of Ontario. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for more information.
person.

Trappers Workshop
When: Sunday, Jan. 14, 9 a.m to 3 p.m.
Where: Lloyd Watson Community Centre, Wilberforce
Join the Minden District Fur Harvesters and numerous vendors for displays, demonstrations, competitions and door prizes throughout the day. Admission by donation. Lunch available. Food will also be collected for the local food bank. Everyone is welcomed. For further info please contact Ted at 705-448-2877.

Canadian Federation of University Women
When: Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Zoom Meeting
Interest groups in hiking, cuisine, wellness, cards and many more, are yours for the asking, just join your favourites. Open to all, with speakers at monthly meetings and an opportunity to meet others in the community. January hear an update of the Dental Outreach program in Haliburton County. Go to www.cfuwhh.ca or email Gail Gotter (g_gotter@hotmail.com) for more info.

Wilberforce Heritage Guild Annual Meeting
When: Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
Where: Wilberforce Red Cross Museum
The Wilberforce Heritage Guild invites you to attend our 2024 Annual Meeting. Everyone is welcome. Contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com

January 2023 Year in Review

The Minden Times will be splitting up their 2023 Year in Review into weekly segments. Please see next week's Times for coverage from April to June, 2023.

Wild Weather

Haliburton County was hit with what some were referring to as "the storm of the century" between Christmas Eve, and lasting until Boxing Day. Local weather correspondent, Scott Moore, told the *Times* that much of the storm was dependent on where you were located. Minden received 16-17 inches of snow over Christmas Eve, while Moore Falls received nearly three feet of snow.

It was a white Christmas in Minden, but the weather quickly turned with temperatures above zero, resulting in a significant loss of snow right after the holidays. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

HHHS explores feasibility of bringing a CT Scan Machine to Haliburton County

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has begun to explore whether a CT scan machine can be brought to Haliburton County to help improve patient outcomes and deliver important healthcare services closer to home. "HHHS had planned to include the addition of a CT scan machine as part of our Master Planning process," said Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS. "We know it would make such a positive impact in the community and that this is something the community has wanted for some time."

Warmer, wet weather closes region's Nordic ski trails

All trails maintained by the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association remain closed because of weather."One of our challenges is that we have not had a good spell of very cold temperatures that would freeze the ground," said Thom Lambert, the association's president. "Although we are not open now, we are still ahead of our opening date last year, which was Jan. 10," Lambert said.

A refresh in the theatrical world

Make way for young adults in the community - they're about to take centre stage. Ctrl-ART-Del is a new theatre company that's sprung up in the Haliburton Highlands, with individuals between the ages of eighteen to forty at the forefront. The company was spearheaded by Tim Nicholson and Amy Leis; two people who are no strangers to the stage themselves, but saw a gap in community theatre, not only in the highlands, but everywhere. "There is nothing specifically geared towards young people in theatre arts," said Nicholson, "and that's a niche that needs to be filled."

Robinson's General Store closed for business

The historic Robinson's General Store in Dorset has closed its doors for now. As of Jan. 8 at 5 p.m., a sign appeared on the front door of the store, letting customers know that the "store is temporarily closed until further notice." On their Google listing, their hours of operation have been changed to a red bar stating "temporarily closed," and their voicemail cuts to dead air.

Trekkers enjoy the bonfire under the full moon at Haliburton Highlands Brewing. /ADAM FRISK

Amelia and Victoria Sulley, from Toronto, take in the races and some hot chocolate on Feb. 6./ FILE

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February 2023 Year in Review

Colleen Dermody of Haliburton shows off her heart from one of the drinks served during the Cupid's Carnival held at Abbey Gardens on Feb. 11. /File

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen cuts the ribbon to officially open the Dorset Snowball on Saturday, Feb. 18. /Submitted by Chad Ingram

Aging Together as a Community - a conversation

The concept of aging is one that is often swept under the rug. "It's become a taboo topic," said David Buwalda, the facilitator for the Aging Together as Community conversation held at the Fish Hatchery, "The more we talk about it, the more we can celebrate it, and we can make a difference."Aging Together As Community conversations were formed when two eager organizations combined their ideas; The Haliburton Highlands Long Term Care Coalition, led by Bonnie Roe, and the ReThink Policy Change group, led by David Barnes."We clicked right away," said Roe, "and we both knew we wanted to discuss ways where we can respect our elders, and facilitate a cultural change."

Algonquin Highlands draft budget sees 3.25% increase to taxpayers

Jean Hughes, the township's treasurer, delivered a draft of the municipality's 2023 spending plan during a pair of meetings Feb. 15 and 16. That's an extra $12.63 over last year for every $100,000 assessed value of property. "This has been a difficult year to prepare a budget and bring it in at a reasonable level," said Mayor Liz Danielsen. "There's been a lot of soul searching and hard work that's been done to get us to this point."

Shawn Smandych of Ommmh Boutique + Eat Cheeserie and Cocktails was serving hot tomato soup for visitors at Minden's Fire and Ice on Feb. 19. /TIM YANO

Dementia
Dementia is a syndrome in which there is deterioration in cognitive function beyond what might be expected from the usual consequences of biological ageing. (WHO 2022)
Major Neurocognitive Disorder: DSM 5
Cognitive decline
Deficits interfere with independence
Not due to delirium or another psych illness
Trillium Health Partners
Better Together

Dr. Barbara Clive, a geriatrician from the GTA, provided an in-depth overview of dementia for attendees at the Aging Together as a Community conversation, held on Jan. 28. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

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February 2023 Year in Review

A group of eager hikers prepare to embark on a hike through Bethel Heights Farm, led by Katie Cox. The tour included details about a historic homestead, as well as an opportunity to spend some time with friendly farm animals. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

Food Centre looks to Minden Hills for financial help

It's been difficult for many families to make ends meet in this hard-scratch economy.

Mayor Bob Carter said the food bank is very important to the community. The food bank helped more than 2,600 individuals in 2022. Nearly 40 per cent of them were children under 12 years old, and more than 20 per cent were between the ages of 65 and 95 years old. The food bank is bracing for a challenging 2023. "It has increased in numbers significantly, and it will continue to increase in 2023," chairperson Don Veno said of visitors to the food centre.

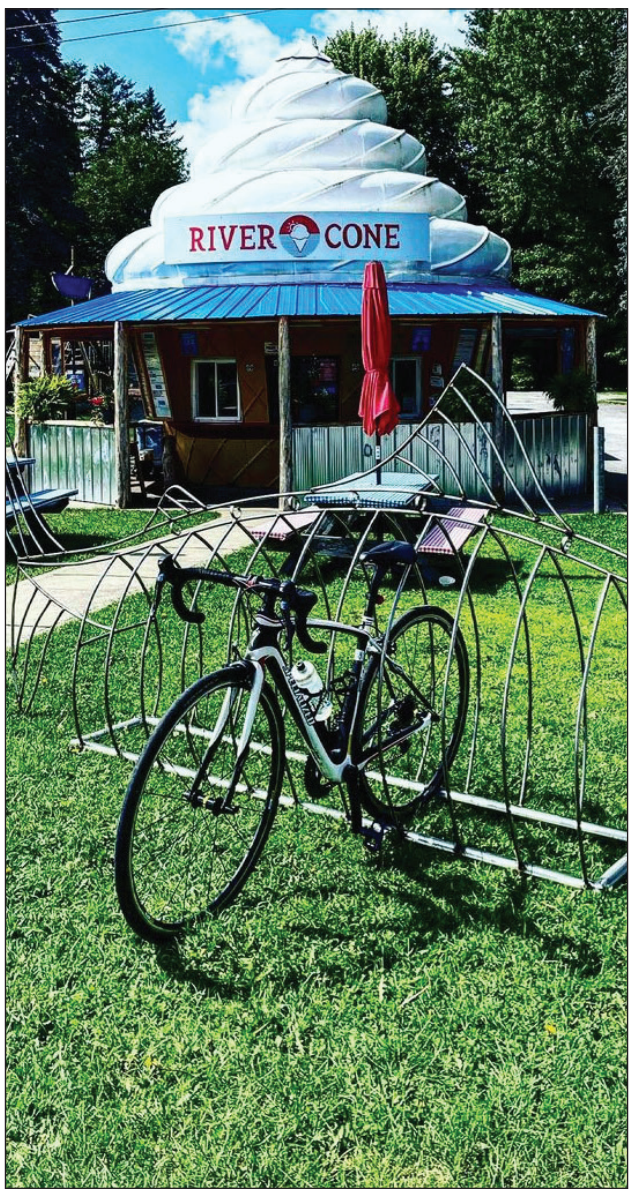
Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said the town has also been donating as much as $3,000 a year."I've been sitting here for 16 years, and I don't think that number's changed," she said.

Minden council unhappy with arena snack bar construction cost

Almost half a million dollars for an arena concession stand. You read that correctly. Just one company made an offer on a call for tenders to build a concession stand at the new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Minden Hills Community Centre. MVW Construction & Engineering Inc. quoted $423,554.51 to do the work. The township projected to borrow $360,000 for the design and construction of the concession stand."The result of our tender wasn't very tender," quipped Mayor Bob Carter.

'So long for now' - Minden River Cone takes a break

It's becoming more and more common; a Minden business closing its doors, waiting for times to ease up. That's what the Minden River Cone has had to do. The owners, Monica and Ben Scott, understand the need for rules and regulations, and told the *Times* they would go above and beyond to make sure they were up to par. "We just wanted to be able to talk to someone. We need the municipality to find ways to work with us instead of giving us reasons to say no," said Monica.



Ben and Monica Scott have chosen to close down the River Cone until warmer weather and easier times. The restaurant is a hub for locals and visitors in the Minden downtown core. /Photo submitted

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March 2023 Year in Review

Service club members, volunteers, and interested parties met at the future site of Minden's first official community garden at the Minden Fairgrounds. The gardens are set to start construction once the snow melts. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

From left, Dave Woodcroft, President of Minden Rotary Club, Lynda Litwin, and Gary Stoner from the Minden Community Food Centre. The organizers welcome other community members and service clubs to get involved. /Photo submitted

Three years in a COVID world

It's officially been three years since the country was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many surely remember March 15, 2020. A day that the country began to implement shutdowns in an attempt to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. The *Times* spoke to ASES principal Mike Gervais about the hopefulness in schools at the time. "We have learned a great deal about students and student learning," he said. "We have used diagnostic tools to determine the learning gaps that students may have developed during the covid school closures, and planned and implemented targeted programming to address these gaps."

Community gardens taking seed in Minden

It's been a long time coming, but plans for Minden's first community garden are starting to bloom. The primary organizers - Minden Rotary Club and Minden Food Centre - hosted an informal meeting at the Dominion Hotel at the end of February to discuss logistics. Here, they were met with some questions from the Minden Kin Club and the Minden Agricultural Society. Instead of talking in circles, the groups decided to meet onsite to map it out. Gary Stoner, a member of the Haliburton County Food Centre in Minden is adamant that this project will help locals in the community. "Our numbers [at the Food Bank] are up over 20 per cent from where we were last year in terms of families using the services" he told the *Times*. "We want to encourage clients to consider taking a plot to help the families out."

Mill Pond wins restaurant makeover

Carnavon's well- known Mill Pond has officially won the ACM Design's Restaurant Makeover Contest, concluding the month-long voting craze. In total, there were just shy of 9000 votes cast for the online contest. "We were expecting less than half of that," said Greg Luck, construction manager for ACM. The other nominees were Truss Foodworks Smokehouse and Maple Avenue Tap and Grill.

Huskies first goal of the game against the Toronto Patriots on March 16, scored by #42 Boyd Stahlbaum.

Water levels below average for this time of year

Kris Windover, the IRM Technical Specialist from the Minden Field Office at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, shared that while the future can never be guaranteed, the pace at which the thaw is taking place in 2023 seems promising.

"Water levels throughout the reservoir lakes in Burnt and Gull River watersheds are average for this time of year, and gradually filling with local run-off, snow melt and precipitation," he shared with the *Times*.

The Minden Times will be splitting up their 2023 Year in Review into weekly segments. Please see next week's Times for coverage from April to June, 2023.

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First baby in Canada welcomed by local family

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

What started as a standard New Year's Eve for Haliburton County local Nadia Shivji, turned into an evening she will never forget.

Shivji and her husband, Jake Martell, currently reside in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The couple met when Shivji moved to the East Coast to pursue her law degree at Dalhousie University, and fell in love with the small-town feel of the maritime city. "It's a lot like Haliburton," said Shivji. "I love how you go to the grocery store, and bump into people you know all the time."

Shivji works for the Dalhousie legal aid services, and at the beginning of the month, was winding down her work as she prepared for her first child, scheduled to be born on Jan. 29, 2024.

But on the evening of Dec. 31, as she was sitting on her couch and finalizing New Year's Eve plans with friends, everything changed.

"I stood up from the couch, and suddenly, my water broke," she said. "I kept thinking, 'no this isn't real yet.'"

The young couple planned on popping into the hospital, just to get checked out quickly before resuming their plans for the evening. "Jake asked if we should pack the car seat, and I laughed because I was sure it wasn't real, but once we got to the hospital, it became pretty real pretty fast."

Upon arrival, Shivji was admitted immediately to prepare for birth. At this time, it was about three hours before midnight, and everyone involved started looking at the clock.

"We all started to wonder, is he going to be a 2023 baby or a 2024 baby?" Shivji recalled.

She actively recalls being mindful of the timing throughout her labour, as the excitement continued to build.

After three hours of pushing, Keirnan Shivji Martell was born at exactly 12:00 a.m., on January 1, 2024. This made him the first known baby born this year in Canada.

"The doctors and the nurses were all pretty excited about that," said Shivji. "The one doctor said that he will be a good hockey player one day," she laughed.

And despite being born ahead of schedule, little Kiernan was a comfortable five pounds, 13 ounces, allowing Shivji and Martell to return home, and find their new routine as a family of three.

Shivji noted that her mom, Rosemary, was able to change tickets to an earlier flight than the one planned for the end of the month, and has been with the couple through these early stages. She is also grateful for the immense support of her friends and work colleagues, who have risen to the occasion with the early arrival, and provided helping hands every step of the way.

Now, as the buzz of the first baby settles, Shivji looks forward to leaning into her new role as mother in every capacity. "It's just been so awesome," she reflected. "It's still so surreal that he's here, and that he's ours."

Kiernan Shivji Martell was born at 12:00 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2024, making him the first baby born in Canada. His mother, Nadia, is from Haliburton, and currently resides in Halifax. /Photo submitted

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Conference
Saturday, January 27th
9:00AM-4:00PM
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Keynote Speakers
Hereditary Chief Randy Chipps, Dr. Pat Armstrong, Dr. John Lord, Sue Lantz and Danielle Turpin
Agenda:
Registration/Service Provider Displays
Emcee Heather Reid (HCDC): Welcome
Traditional Indigenous Blessing for the Conference
Keynote Presentation: Indigenous Perspectives in Elder Care with Randy Chipps
Keynote Presentation: "Putting Life into Years" with Dr. Pat Armstrong
LTC Advocacy for Change in Haliburton County HHHS Hyland Crest/Pat Bradley
Lunch (provided) and Service Provider Displays
Keynote Panel: Time for Transformation
Expanding community based options for healthy aging in Haliburton County A discussion with John Lord, Sue Lantz and Danielle Turpin
Intergenerational Perspective: The creativity and involvement of our local youth - Rotaract/Interact
Open Space - Community Creativity led by Barnes Management/Re:Think
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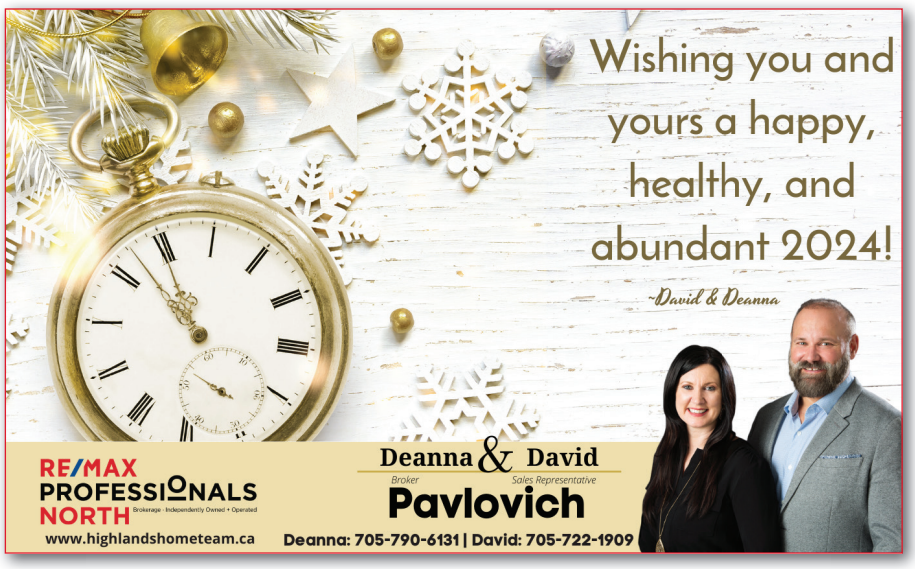

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Curling winners

The Minden Monday Ladies League Curling teams played on Dec. 18. Pictured are Kim Elrick, Jacquei Fletcher, Lynette Gray, absent Trudy Hambly, who tied as winners of the Ladies A Division Playoffs. /Photos submitted

The team of Melanie Vigrass tied for winners of the A Division. Pictured left to right, Kim Elric, Jacquei Fletcher, Lynette Gray, (absent Trudy Hambly) Melanie Vigrass, Carol Alain, Dale Bull, Monique Perrault.

Home Game

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1		7	3					6
								9
					8			
	5	3						
	7	1		5		2		
			2				1	
5			9	7			6	4

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Answers on page 15

‘Slàinte Mhaith’ in the name of Robbie Burns

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Translating to “good health” from Gaelic, the famous 18th century Scottish poet and a ploughman will soon be toasted by Highlanders on Jan. 20.

Robbie Burns Night in the Highlands has been a longstanding tradition since the 70s.

The Haliburton Legion will be filled with the sound of bagpipes as tartans line walls and drape over tabletops.

Scottish fare, most importantly a haggis, will be brought in to sustain dancing and to be paired with drams of Scotch.

Robert, “Robbie”, Burns wrote over 550 poems in his short life.

He lived 5,000 kilometres away in Ayrshire, Edinburgh, and Dumfriesshire, Scotland nearly three centuries ago.

But one Highlands resident explained, it’s what lies within Burns’ poems that dissolves the distance.

It’s the reason for celebrating.

We may not be ploughmen living in cottages with our cattle, but key social struggles still present today were at the forefront of many of his humorous poems.

“He was born into a poor family, but he had a great mind,” said local piper Jim Thompson. “His father made sure he got an education when many other children around him didn’t.”

Thompson is a Scot through and through, but has been living in Canada for the past 50 years.

He lived less than 20 minutes from one of Burns’ homes near the west coast.

Thompson overturned pages in books from his personal library on Burns as he described the poet’s life.

“The illustrator of this book taught at Glasgow School of Art while I was attending,” Thompson said briefly.

He paused at a poem called *A Man’s a Man for All That.*

“It’s all to do with social structure. If you were born into a rich family, then you were obviously better off in society. In spite of all that, Robert Burns was born into a poor family, and he was able to find great success because of his mind,” Thompson said. “Even though he didn’t have a lot of money, ‘A man’s a man for all that,’ he still became a great man.”

One page of a book of history on Burns was bookmarked.

On the page, the name “Judge Haliburton” was highlighted, a reference to Thomas Chandler Haliburton, the very man of which Haliburton county gets its name.

“There was a centenary hosted 100 years after the birth of Robert Burns. All of the important people around went to this celebration, and judge Haliburton was one of them,” Thompson said.

Thompson himself has been celebrating Burns since he was a “wee one”.

“I learned to play the bagpipes at 10, and our pipe band always played at Burns suppers,” he said.

He remembers the 200th anniversary of Burns’ birth while attending university.

“They had a display of his work, and the one that stuck out to me was the original version of *A Red, Red Rose.* His penmanship was beautiful.”

Thompson will be giving the Address to a Haggis, an important part of every Burns celebration before the haggis is eaten.

“Usually, the lower class worked on farms that didn’t belong to them, which meant the animals didn’t belong to them, either. People like Robert Burns and his family would get the leftovers from the Lords. Whatever was left over was made into haggis,” Thompson explained.

Any meat would be ground, added to oats and spices, and boiled in a sheep’s bladder.

Thompson recited the poem, pausing after every verse to translate to modern English.

It’s filled with wit and read with great enthusiasm.

Tickets for Robbie Burns Night in the Highlands can be purchased at the Haliburton Legion, Canoe FM, and from local Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band members

Charlie Grohnwald from Mansfield School of Highland Dance performs during the Robbie Burns Dinner last January. /FILE

County of Haliburton
2024 Budget Deliberations

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that Haliburton County Council will be discussing the 2024 budget at their regular scheduled Council meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.
And that further 2024 budget discussions will occur thereafter at regularly scheduled Council meetings until the budget is approved.
The agendas for the above noted meeting dates can be viewed online at http://haliburton.civicweb.net

Gary Dyke, CAO/County Clerk
11 Newcastle Street
P.O. Box 399
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The Echo Haliburton County | The Times Minden Ontario | County Life

Preparing for the history of tomorrow

If you are of a certain vintage, you may remember an animated television series called *ReBoot*. Running from 1994-1998, *ReBoot* was set in the inner world of a computer with the main characters battling computer virus villains. The series was created entirely with computer generated imagery (CGI) and gained a dedicated following. Mainframe Entertainment, the Vancouver-based company behind *ReBoot*, was also behind the CGI characters featured in the music video for the Dire Straits hit "Money for Nothing".

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
Humans and Technology

Recently, the team behind an upcoming documentary about *ReBoot* unearthed the original master tapes for the series. Rendered on PAL D-1 tape cassettes, the discovery was met with excitement, but posed a big challenge – the production company no longer had the type of tape deck required to play those tapes. While the documentary team has put the word out to try and find the correct deck, the footage remains unviewable until the correct technology needed to read it is found.

ReBoot is an interesting example of where technology meets the preservation of history. Digital formats have changed rapidly over time, leaving some formats essentially orphaned without the technology to read them. As well, certain digital formats degrade as copies are made, making the storage of the original digital copy an important consideration. Besides not being able to read the original PAL D-1 master tapes of *ReBoot*, the tape itself may be nearing the end of its useable lifespan. Being able to transfer the data off those tapes will, hopefully, yield a copy that is as close as possible to the original for preservation.

You may be wondering about why there would be such an interest in a cartoon from the 90s. It turns out, *ReBoot* does carry some historical significance. It was one of the first television series produced entirely using CGI, representing a milestone in, as well as a major Canadian contribution to, television history. It has taken a group of interested and dedicated enthusiasts to bring about even the potential for this bit of Canadiana to be preserved for posterity.

The sheer volume of digital data generated over the last half-century that might be deemed worthy of historical preservation is massive. The Library of Congress attempted to archive years of tweets from the social media platform formerly known as Twitter before storage limitations and changes to tweet formatting made the project unfeasible. The Internet Archive, with its Wayback Machine, attempts to preserve website data but is limited by how much of the vastness of the internet its bots can crawl. Wikipedia, a huge tome of information, has notability guidelines for what warrants a stand-alone article. How many points of view are lost in the undertow of this surfeit of digital history? What is deemed remarkable enough to keep?

What we keep and how we keep it is an ongoing question in our society and has been since long before anything digital. Those decisions can have weighty social consequences. We often see history as immutable, but it is based on a series of decisions made by our institutions and society reflecting a specific point of view. Naming a small Ontario town after a humourist who never set foot there, while failing to recognize the many hundreds of years of Indigenous history in the area, were decisions. Decisions on what to preserve, commemorate, and celebrate, are very often made by people with means and power resulting in a historical perspective that is at best incomplete and at worst damaging.

Technology can at least help give a voice to those whose history has gone unrecognized. For example, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has an online archive documenting Residential Schools in Canada and the reconciliation process. The Tulsa Historical Society and Museum houses an online exhibit commemorating the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre in which white rioters nearly destroyed the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma, known as Black Wall Street, killing hundreds of black Tulsans. These digital collections help provide wider access to physical collections along with analysis.

Today, much of what may someday be an artefact is born digital. To this end, digital archive projects work to preserve social media posts, videos, and other digital ephemera. For example, Arizona State University's *Journal of the Plague Year* crowd sources COVID-19 pandemic experiences and includes a collection focusing on the experience of the LGBTQ+ community, ensuring this perspective won't be overlooked by history.

While we might romantically view history through a lens of handwritten letters and grainy photographs, advances in technology mean that what might become the historical record will include a diverse collection of ideas, formats, and voices. How we preserve this history is a problem we need to deal with now so that researchers in the future can truly learn about how we lived today.

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NOTICE: SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL & PUBLIC MEETING – 2024 BUDGET PROCESS

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 9:00 am during its Special Council Meeting regarding the 2024 Budget Process.

To view the full notice and for more information visit vwww.mindenhills.ca or contact our office at 705-286-1260.

Notice
Tariff of Fees

Notice is hereby provided that the Council of the County of Haliburton will be reviewing and considering amendments to the Tariff of Fees By-law-4145 at the Council Meeting to be held on January 24, 2024. Meeting to commence at 9:00 a.m.

Gary Dyke, CAO/County Clerk
11 Newcastle Street
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4	3	9	2	8	6	5	1	7
7	6	8	5	1	4	3	9	2
5	1	2	9	7	3	8	6	4

Partnership Opportunity

TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

Collection of Alcohol Containers at Township Waste Disposal Sites

The Township of Minden Hills is seeking interest from local organizations who wish to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Township for the collection of alcohol containers at a Waste Disposal Site.

The Township is interested in increasing resident access and participation in deposit return systems while providing opportunities to give back to the local community.

For more information please contact the Manager of Waste Facilities at 705-286-1260 ext. 572 or by email ccosh@mindenhills.ca

Responsibilities of the Community Partner include:

- Regular pick up of containers, ensuring tidiness of collection site;
- Pay an annual administration fee of $200. These funds go towards the maintenance of the storage shed, signage and maintaining the collection area;
- Provide annual reporting on total quantities collected.

When submitting notice of interest, organizations must provide a brief summary of their organization, where funds are being utilized in the community, and a preference of Waste Disposal Site for the collection location.

The deadline to submit this information is February 21, 2024 at 4:00 pm.
Please submit notice of interest to ccosh@mindenhills.ca

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Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume to:

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540 COMING EVENTS

Trappers Workshop
Sunday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. Join the Minden District Fur Harvesters and numerous vendors for displays demonstrations competitions and door prizes throughout the day! Admission by donation. Lunch available. Food will also be collected for the local food bank.. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further info please contact Ted at **705-448-2877**

570 NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on behalf of Felice Mueller application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to revive Qui Vive Island Club Inc. the Qui Vive Island Club Inc. Act 2023. The application may be considered by the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions, for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2. Dated at Portland, Oregon, USA, this 23rd day of November, 2023.FELICE MUELLER

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540 COMING EVENTS

the arts council haliburton highlands

Annual General Meeting
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650 OBITUARIES

Community Funeral Home

Dorothy Wilson (nee Playford)
(Resident of Haliburton)

Passed peacefully at Highland Wood on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at age 94. Wife of 70 years and best friend of the late Ken Wilson. Loving mother of Paul (Kim), Debbie (Ed McCallum), John (Marilou Mizzan) and Tracey. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Lauren (Chris), Adam (Ashley), Jeff (Jessica), Hilary (Ryan), Michael, Ryan (Joanne), Shawn (Alex), Lyndsey (Jonathan), Andrea (Melanie), Courtney (Monte), Brett (Lauren), Holly (Pablo), Andy, Carter and by her twenty-nine great grandchildren. Survived by sister Norma and brother Bill. Predeceased by siblings Stuart, Ethel, Muriel, Russ and Ken.

Dorothy was a long time resident of Haliburton. She was a stay-at-home mom until 1969, when she began working as a bookkeeper at Haliburton Lumber with her husband until they retired in 1989. She enjoyed being with her family, sewing, gardening and travelling with their many friends.

Private Celebration of Life

The family will hold a private Celebration of Dorothy's life. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Community Funeral Home

Jean Tyler (nee Morrison)
(Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Sunday evening, January 7, 2024 in her 98th year. Beloved wife of the late Ron Tyler (1994). Loving mother of Sharon and Cathy (John). Predeceased by her siblings Lorna and Arthur. Fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Friday morning, January 12, 2024 for a Funeral Service in the Chapel at 12 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior) As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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FOR MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES OR ANY OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US

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The moose makes himself at home as he mingled with the herd of cows at the Toye farm north of Minden.

Moose drops by for Holiday visit

by Matthew Sitler

Minden farmer Ian Toye first met his six-foot-high visitor three weeks ago to the day, during its first visit to the cow shed.

Now Toye is wondering whether the young, but large, bull moose has taken up permanent residence at his farm on Bobcaygeon Road north of Minden.

The Minden resident has lived on his property for six years, and says he has never witnessed a bull moose enter the cattle feeding area with the nonchalance of this one. "The first time it came, it went right into the cattle shed," he told *The Times*. The animal re-appeared on Tuesday, January 2.

The first time he spotted the moose it was sporting a pair of antlers. The appendages have since been shed.

Toye said it has been novel to see the moose in such close proximity to his house. "I don't think it's here for food. It might be because some of my cows are in heat," he said, adding "A little calf of mine is going right up close, taking runs at it - I don't know if it's aware of what it's getting into."

Toye said that the bull moose has been nose-to-nose with one of his own bulls but nothing came of the encounter. "It's quite the sight," he said.

Minden Hills council members take office

Council is officially in session.

Members of the new council of Minden Hills were sworn-in Friday at the council chambers in Minden.

Pastor Terry Wicks offered a prayer, while CAO Tammy McKelvey conducted the swearing-in ceremonies. Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney thanked the people in the packed council chambers for taking the time and interest to attend the inauguration. It was a sentiment echoed by the rest of the council members.

"On November 13 this council received a mandate for change," Rigney said. "It'll take time to make some of these changes, but they will be made."

Rigney said the new government of Minden Hills will be "open and transparent."

On the economic side, Rigney said, "I have had discussions with Canadian Tire and others and they definitely want to be in Minden on the Highway 35 corridor. They are committed to come here and we are committed to have it happen. That's the beginning of the spin-offs that can make a major change in our economy."

The planning by-laws are still in place for the three previous municipalities and Rigney said the new council will "work diligently to consolidate them so no matter where you live in Minden Hills, you will be treated the same. That is a priority."

Deputy-Reeve Jim McMahon said the new council of Minden Hills "is going to work with this community to try and make things happen to see this community grow." He said the community has been stagnant for too long.

(more on page 13)

SWORN-IN: The new council of Minden Hills was sworn in Friday. The members are, front row, left to right, Reeve Ross Rigney and Deputy-Reeve Jim McMahon. Back row (l to r): Councillors Ron Buchanan, Bill Valentine, Peter Oyler and Ingram Wessell. Councillor Bill Obee was unble to attend the inauguration.

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